

Application No. 09/477,730  
Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2003

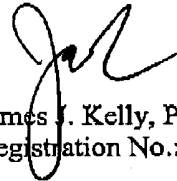
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Collins for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on April 8, 2004. During that discussion, the Examiner indicated that the amendment submitted above would place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendment to Claim 14 is supported by the specification and the original claims.  
Claim 19 has been amended to depend from Claim 14. Claims 16-18 have been canceled.  
No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.